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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,490	03/08/2002	Yuichi Koga	04329.2760	1279

7590 08/11/2004

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER

VU, TRISHA U

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2112

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/092,490

Applicant(s)

KOGA, YUICHI

Examiner

Trisha U. Vu

Art Unit

2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okada (6,073,195).

As to claim 1, Okada teaches a computer system comprising: a system board (bus controller 14) including a first connector and a second connector (connectors 12) arranged in parallel with a first transmission line (10) including at least one element (Figs. 1-2); a first board (bus agent 16) including a second transmission line (transmission line connecting the bus agent 16 to connector 12) (Figs. 1-2) which is connected to the first transmission line through the first connector and to which an element having an impedance is connected; and a second board including a third line which is connected to the first transmission line through the second connector and to which a dummy load (dummy load 24) (col. 4, lines 1-22).

As to claim 2, Okada further teaches an impedance of the dummy load is equal to the impedance of the element (col. 4, lines 1-22).

As to claim 4, Okada teaches a computer system comprising: a system board (bus controller 14) including at least one element connected to a transmission line (10) and a connector (12) connected to the transmission line; and an expansion board (bus agent 16 or dummy load 24) connected through the connector, wherein an impedance matching element for impedance matching of the transmission line is connected to the transmission line of the system board when the expansion board is connected (Figs. 1-2 and col. 4, lines 1-22).

As to claim 6, Okada teaches a connector (switch 22 and dummy load 24) to connect a transmission line of a system board (controller 14) with a transmission line of an expansion board together (bus agent 16) (Figs. 1-2), the connector comprising: an impedance matching element (dummy load 24) having an impedance which is equal to that of the expansion board; and a mechanical switch (switch 22) which connects the transmission line of the system board to the impedance matching element when the expansion board is not attached to the connector (col. 4, lines 1-22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 3, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada (6,073,195) in view of Clouser et al. (5,884,053) (hereinafter Clouser).

As to claim 3, the argument above for claim 2 applies. However, Okada does not explicitly disclose the dummy load is a capacitor. Clouser teaches dummy load capacitor (col. 7, lines 26-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement dummy load capacitor as taught by Clouser in the system of Okada to provide an appropriate impedance.

As to claim 5, the argument above for claim 4 applies. However, Okada does not explicitly disclose the impedance matching element is a capacitor. Clouser teaches dummy load capacitor (col. 7, lines 26-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement dummy load capacitor as taught by Clouser in the system of Okada to provide an appropriate impedance.

As to claim 7, the argument above for claim 4 applies. However, Okada does not explicitly disclose the impedance matching element is a capacitor. Clouser teaches dummy load capacitor (col. 7, lines 26-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement dummy load capacitor as taught by Clouser in the system of Okada to provide an appropriate impedance.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, as the art discloses connection and disconnection of bus agents:

US Patent 6,170,029 Kelley et al.

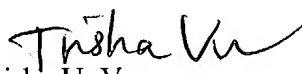
Art Unit: 2112

US Patent 6,665,736 Fan

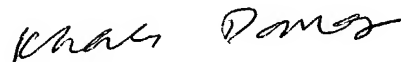
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trisha U. Vu whose telephone number is 703-305-5959. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and alternate Fri from 7:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on 703-305-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Trisha U. Vu
Examiner
Art Unit 2112

uv



Khanh Dang
Primary Examiner